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COUNTRY China

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SUBJECT Transportation by Sea and by Inland Waterways
in China

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1. In early April 1950, the Soviets demanded control of the ports of Chin-huangtao (119-35, 39-57), Haichou (119-12, 34-34), Weihaiwei (122-06, 37-31), Chefoo, and Tsingtao on grounds that it was necessary if the operational facilities of these ports were to be developed effectively with their assistance.

2. In June 1950, Tientsin was the main sea port utilized by the Chinese Communists. Forty-five Chinese ships called at the port in July 1949; by March 1950, the number had increased to ninety-two ships. [REDACTED] Other important points of call were Yingkou (122-13, 40-40), Lienyuchiang (119-50, 34-40), Chefoo, and Tsingtao.

3. There are approximately 400 government and private freighters with a carrying capacity of 90,000 tons, or 53 percent of the pre-war total, in use on inland waterways in China. In addition, 10,088 junks with a total carrying capacity of 200,000 tons were utilized.

4. In June 1950, shipping activity and the condition of navigable inland waterways in certain China areas were as follows:

a. Yangtze River Valley area:

The Communist Ship-salvaging Commission for the East China area is engaged in attempting to refloat ships which have sunk in the Yangtze and Whangpoo Rivers. Ships raised will be refitted for use. Traffic on the Yangtze is light, except for the large number of troop transports which have been moving between Chungking and Ipin (104-34, 28-46) via Lu Hsien (105-23, 28-53).

River liners resumed service in August 1949 between Changsha (112-59, 28-12), and Taoyuan (111-18, 28-54), on the Hsiang River. In the Han River (104- , 33-) area, there are 70 small steamers, with a total carrying capacity of 1,400 tons.

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b. North Kiangsu Province area:

Eight lines have been restored to service in this area, including those linking Nantung (120-52, 32-02) and Shihchiang (120-59, 32-14), Yencheng (120-09, 33-22) and Founing (119-50, 33-46), and Taihsing (120-02, 32-09) and Hsinghua (119-51, 32-55).

c. Grand Canal:

The Grand Canal is navigable from Tung Hsien (116-39, 39-55), Hopei Province, to Hangchow (120-10, 30-17), Chekiang Province. Traffic is limited to junks,

d. Pearl River area:

From Canton to Laolungssu (115-20, 24-03), the East River is navigable. In November 1949 there were 92 vessels of various types registered with Communist headquarters in the area. The West River is navigable from Canton to Wuchow (111-19, 23-28), while the North River is navigable for steam vessels from Canton to Chingyuan (113-01, 23-44). [REDACTED]

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e. Southwest China:

The government maintains a rigid control over all privately-owned vessels in this area.

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